

Page 17, line 5, after "gas" insert --,--; and  
line 18, after "copper" insert --,--.

Page 18, line 5, after "Then" insert --,--;  
line 13, change "a" to --an--;  
line 20, change "laminated alternately" to --alternately laminated;--;

and

line 25, after "Then" insert --,--.

Page 19, line 25, change "in its scope" to --, within its scope,--.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1 - 10 as follows:

A2  
1. (Amended) A process for producing a barrier film [which comprises],  
comprising the steps of:

providing a substrate in a vacuum atmosphere;

introducing a feedstock gas having a high temperature-melting point metal in its  
structure and a reductive nitrogen-containing gas comprising a nitrogen atom into said vacuum  
atmosphere; and

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forming a thin film of the nitride of said high temperature-melting point metal on said substrate[;],

wherein a nitrogen-free auxiliary reductive gas is introduced into said vacuum atmosphere.

2. (Amended) The process for producing a barrier film according to claim 1, [which comprises a step of introducing] wherein said auxiliary reductive gas is introduced together with said feedstock gas and said reductive nitrogen-containing gas into said vacuum atmosphere.

3. (Amended) The process for producing a barrier film according to claim 2, [which comprises] wherein the introducing step includes a step of introducing said feedstock gas and said reductive nitrogen-containing gas into said vacuum atmosphere without introducing said auxiliary reductive gas.

Claim 4, line 4, change ";" to --,--; and  
line 8, change "but" to --, but--.

Claim 5, line 4, change ";" to --,--; and  
in each of lines 6 and 8, change "but" to --, but--.

Claim 6, line 4, change ";" to --,--; and  
line 6, change "but" to --, but--.